

## **Alzheimer's State Plan Executive Board**

Minutes of the Meeting held June 15, 2016  
Seven Hills RI  
178 Norwood Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02905

### **Attendance:**

Thomas Enright, Esq. Acting Chair  
Maria Barros, Nursing Placement  
Sandra Fournier, Seven Hills  
Christine Gadbois, The Providence Center  
Kathleen McKeon, Diocese of Providence  
Donna McGowan, Alzheimer's Association  
Dr. John Stoukides

Also, present from the Lt. Governor's Office  
Craig Dwyer  
Barbara Goodrich  
Andrea Palagi

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Tom Enright, at 9:07 am

Introductions were made to the newest member of the Board, Dr. John Stoukides, and he was officially offered a warm welcome. Dr. Stoukides was given a brief explanation of the mission of the Alzheimer's State Plan and its several subcommittees.

It was noted that the Research subcommittee is now through URI and the Ryan Institute. The Alzheimer's Association has formed their own research committee too. They are in the process of planning a conference and will honor local researchers.

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

The Minutes from the last meeting which was held on April 20, 2016 were presented. Hearing no discussion, a motion was made by Sandra Fournier and seconded by Craig Dwyer to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

### **Grants:**

Sandy presented the template that will go out to everyone through email. This is a guide as to what they are looking for and dollar amount. Donna McGowan said the subcommittees need tell us what they need and to prioritize their wish list so we can go forward and start researching.

A discussion was held regarding how the changes in the handling of legislative grants may impact the needs of our subcommittees. Kathy McKeon told the Board that her grants at this point appear to be protected. She reported that Respite and Meals on Wheels look to be fine, and moving forward, the

bigger programs will be built into the budget. Donna McGowan stressed the need to search for funding at the Federal level starting with our congressional leaders.

Tom Enright asked the Board to inform their subcommittees to look at their goals in the next few weeks and try to submit for completion of one or two goals. Information should be submitted to Sandy Fournier and/or Donna McGowan.

#### **Legal Issues/Safe Driving:**

Tom informed the group that one student from Roger Williams University is available for work on this initiative. Research has been shared including very helpful information from Emily Gadbois. The subcommittee is presently working on creating regulations and white paper. Once that is complete, they will then reach out to the Lieutenant Governor and his Chief of Staff Tony Silva.

A question was asked if there is a reassessment plan for driving adding that typically doctors refer the patient to AAA and AAA assess their driving abilities. Tom Enright replied there is an assessment through the DMV whereas the Doctor or family contact the DMV and the DMV will assess. Consensus was they should considering a preliminary test that the family can voluntarily send the patient to for assessment. They in turn will inform the family but DMV will not be contacted allowing the family to handle the matter. This initiative would need to be funded and run outside the parameters of the DMV. Other states do have this option, and we are looking into funding for this. One committee member feels that some drivers would be safe with extra driving lessons. There are other states that reassess at 70 years of age, 75, etc. Tom will bring this information back to his group.

#### **Letter to Director Fogarty:**

The letter went out to Director Fogarty and all members were sent a copy. To date, we have not heard back. Kathy McKeon is very appreciative of the support from the Executive Board by sending the letter. In the future we can update the letter by making pertinent revisions and send again.

#### **Sub Groups:**

##### **Caregivers:**

Kathy McKeon reported through the Caregiver's training there will be 14 new leaders. A fall schedule for classes is being established. Powerful tools is a 6-week consecutive, 1 ½ hr. course that came out of Stanford University. Classes will be conducted in both the fall and spring.

##### **Alzheimer's Association:**

Donna McGowan has to update the national organization on the state plan status every June. All subcommittee chairs were notified asking them to complete the required information.

##### **State Plan Diversity Group:**

Maria Barros sent two employees to the Powerful tools training hoping they will bring back lessons learned. The State Plan Diversity Group has hosted Alzheimer's educational programs at the Cape Verdean Community Center providing information regarding identifying signs of Alzheimer's and navigating Cape Verdean culture and customs for caregivers. (See attached report).

Latino cable radio and television programs are running information regarding Alzheimer's. Social Media is also being utilized but additional outreach is needed in more languages. Maria has also been reaching

out to churches, women's group, and Bible study groups where they go in after the meeting and talk to them about Alzheimer's.

Maria informed that Board that it has been established that through RI Partnership for Home Care that any patient admitted will be given support materials.

The Board discussed the importance of research. Dr. Stoukides informed the board of the need for staffing with bilingual language skills to conduct the studies which alternately allows the patient to participate in the clinical studies and provided the opportunity to receive the new drugs which are very good. Unfortunately, language barriers are not allowing all patients to participate. Kathy McKeon said we should work with the Ryan Institute on this issue and promote bilingual nursing students to enter this area of study. It was also brought up that it does not necessarily have to be nursing students and they could reach into other curriculums such as psychology. It was pointed out that the professional community needs to address this concern because 20-30% are Spanish speaking. The Executive Board decided we should reach out to Bill Renehan at the URI Ryan Institute. It was suggested that the Ryan Center could open up a Spanish research site that could also serve as a training site. URI School of nursing and gerontology already work with Alzheimer's Association. Hopefully Bill can do some investigative work on this behalf and get back to us. Donna McGowan will email Bill and have him connect with Maria and Christine. Dr. Stoukides will try to find a couple of faculty members who speak Spanish or Portuguese and could train others. Other schools such as U Mass Dartmouth and Brown were mentioned as considerations as well, but the Board decided we should start at URI because they are our partner.

A brief discussion ensued regarding staffing for CNA's and their need for specific and adequate training for home care. Respite presently has the money to pay for the care but not enough people to fill the need because they are competing with public employment due to the improved economy. Target, for example, is paying \$15.00 an hour. This group needs to look into this. Agencies are not accepting patients because there is not enough staffing. Donna McGowan suggested contacting Rick Gamache who chairs workforce subcommittee to consider options in dealing with this concern.

#### **Meeting with Dr. Salloway:**

Craig Dwyer informed the Board that and he and Lt. Governor McKee met with Neurologist Dr. Stephen Salloway. This meeting provided an opportunity for an informative tour at Butler Hospital as well as meet with Dr. Salloway's very impressive team where extensive research is also being conducted. A member of his team may soon serve as a representative on the Alzheimer's State Plan Executive Board. The Lt. Governor's office is trying to obtain a power point presentation from their research.

#### **Follow up items:**

Tom Enright will look into updating the safe driving brochures.

Donna McGowan will look to see what they have in Videos and brochures in different languages to bring to the communities. She will also check with Bill Renehan about using URI interns from the communication program.

Chairs of the subgroups need to update the Alzheimer's information and fill out the templates.

#### **New Business**

#### **Discussion regarding future efforts for the Executive Board:**

Tom Enright informed the group the Executive Board needs to work toward implementation, get work done and produce results. We also need to evaluate the Board's efforts and make adjustments to keep making positive steps forward. It was noted that the formation of this Executive Board has helped to improve communication between the different groups and that The Ryan Institute is filling a very big need. If any of the Board members get feedback from the subgroups indicating we need to change directions, please raise these concerns and issues with the Executive Board.

A question was raised regarding how frequently the Executive Board meets, i.e. should they meet monthly or quarterly. All were in agreement to meet monthly in order to hold ourselves accountable. Tom warned we need to make sure this is not just another meeting; we need to make things happen and implement the State Plan.

**Next Meeting:**

The September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Executive Board will be held at URI meeting. It is the hope of the Lieutenant Governor that there will be a good contingency from the Board attending.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Goodrich  
Executive Assistant to Lt. Governor Daniel J. McKee